[117 cont.] Strips of
283 rattan serve for lashings (8), or, for finer work, plaited or twisted

8. Dalrymple, pp. 89, 193.

rope and strings of coconut and other plant fibers (Fig. 47, Nos. 1 and 2). The twisting of the string is done on the upper thigh
413 with the ball of the right thumb (9). As a special tool, probably

9. Joest, Tagebuch, p. 86.

used in preparing [118] [Fig. 46 appears here] atap for roof
[237] coverings, the needles of pigs' ribs must be mentioned (Fig. 47,
396 No. 3) (1). Boat-building, as everywhere in Polynesia, is a craft
461

1. Edge-Partington, III, 65, No. 3. Berlin VI 16002. It is not wholly improbable that the needles are used for the embroidery of the plaited bags; cf. pp. 101 f.

that is particularly respected. In Vanikoro a chief was a famous boat-builder -- Gaimard, however, also gives evidence that the boat-builders had no perseverance and very often rested (2) --

2. Cf. p. 81. Gaimard in D'Urville, p. 334.

396 and on Ndeni the craft was hereditary in certain families. By
[428] washing the hand of his son with water, the artist transmits his skill to his heir before his death. The completion of a boat is therefore connected with certain formalities, for example the builder must row the new boat out to sea and then let it be tossed
[784] about on the breakers so that the spirit of the place where the tree was felled is driven away. He also believes that this will keep evil influences away from the ax that was used for the work (3).

3. O'Ferrall in J.A.I., XXXIV, p. 225.

/157 cont./

461 For the men, the days pass in busy idleness. They spend a great deal of time in the men's house, often bored to death, sunk into a half-awake state from which they can arouse themselves only with difficulty. They can be very energetic, however, and at some accustomed activity, especially if it has the nature of a sport, develop great endurance.

481 For example, they are excellent swimmers. They swim with irregular movements, somewhat like dogs, and, strange to say, they often spread out their fingers when they push off. Perhaps it is because of their irregular, effortless movements that they have such extraordinary endurance. A boy of about eight swam under the 500-ton steamer of the Anglican Mission without ado (2). Since the men so often disport themselves in the sea,

515

2. [Cf. also O'Ferrall, section "Sailing Canoe."]

[302] they are fairly clean, and in the case of many of the younger ones it was plainly to be seen that they adorned themselves with great care and tried to look elegant. They are definitely vain, more so than the women.

181

They are inquisitive, alert, and not stupid, and it appears that the race, thanks to a dominant Polynesian strain, may perhaps be counted among the higher Melanesians.

762 It is said that women not infrequently commit suicide by hanging as a consequence of bad treatment by the men.

Clothing and Adornment

302 I did not anywhere see the colored plaits of the men that are mentioned by Coote (3). This style has probably died

3. [Ethn., I, p. 75.]